

## METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING AN OXIDE LAYER

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### ABSTRACT

10 A steam oxidation process which provides uniform coverage of oxygen radicals  
across a surface of a substrate to enhance the oxidation rate and form a uniform layer of  
SiO<sub>2</sub>. The steam oxidation process provides the heat and oxygen radicals for SiO<sub>2</sub>  
formation through the combustion of a process flame. The process flame can be fueled  
by a combination of H<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> process gases. The process flame can include a plurality  
of process flames directed substantially perpendicular to the target substrate to provide  
uniform heating of the substrate and a uniform deposition of oxygen radicals across the  
15 surface of the substrate to enhance the formation of an oxidation layer.